

The LONDON JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, April 29. 1738.

NUMB. 977.

TO RALPH FREEMAN, Esq;

SIR,



It is a very just as well as old Observation, that *Superstition* in one Age is usually succeeded by *Atheism* in the next. It may seem a Paradox, but it is certainly a Truth, that Extremes are not far distant, especially with regard to vulgar Opinion, which once discovering itself wrong in holding the Affirmative of any Question, immediately lays hold of the Negative for Truth, without ever thinking of the middle Path, though it be, generally speaking, her Station. In the Reign of King Henry VII. there was no Point less in dispute than the Piety of founding and endowing religious Houses. In the Reign of Henry VIII. there was no Point of Wisdom more generally agreed to, than the pulling down and destroying them. Cardinal *Wolsey* led the Way; but, I humbly conceive, with more Prudence than discovered itself in the Conduct of his Followers; for he took care that the Revenues of suppressed Monasteries should be converted to other public Uses; whereas, on the general Dissolution of religious Houses, what had encouraged Luxury and Idleness among the Monks, was given to gratify the Avarice or Ambition of great Men; which might have been better bestowed either on the Heirs of those who had been the Founders of such Houses, or, by public Sale, the Produce of the Lands might have been applied to Works of general Utility. But this Matter is over; and I am far from expecting, or even of desiring, that it should be reviewed: The Reason I mention it is, because of late there have been loud Clamours raised against our public Seminaries of Learning, as it became, like all human Contrivances, they are subject to Abuse, they ought therefore to be taken away; but, with the Leave of our State Surgeons, Amputation is not the first, but the last Recourse, at least among prudent and charitable People, who have no Idea of cutting off a Hand, because a Felon appears on one of his Fingers; or of chopping off a Leg to prevent the Inconveniences that may flow from a broken Skin.

I do very readily admit, that if it could be proved, as I have often heard it asserted, that Smoking and Drinking are the main Articles of University Education, Universities might well be taken away. But I presume, the Wisdom of our Ancestors, who not only founded and endowed Colleges, but also appointed them Statutes, the great Reputation of these Academies in former Times; and the general Esteem they are yet in throughout all the Countries of Europe, except those in which they are situate, may entitle them to a fair Trial before they are condemned, and secure them from Conviction on a Presentment only, from a grand Jury of Critics. I am persuaded, that their most violent Enemies are those who are least acquainted with them; and that if any Gentlemen of Parts and Learning will go to either of the Universities, and shew no Disposition either to Smoking or Drinking, he will quickly find Companions of another Taste, whose Conversation will convince him that the reigning Abuses in our Universities proceed from the general Corruption of the Age, and not at all from the Nature of those Establishments, which are as much calculated to promote Sobriety and Virtue, as Wisdom and true Religion; all of which must grow out of Fashion before it can be thought for the public Interest to treat Colleges like Monasteries, and those who study in them as the Successors of lazy Monks.

[Price Two-Pence.]

I know very well that an Opinion has been propagated, that these Foundations are useless, even supposing they adhered to the Principles of their Institution; but that is built upon another Opinion, which has not hitherto been generally received, viz. That Learning itself is useless, and that Scholars are not half so beneficial to a State as Plowmen; but till this be proved it is to be hoped the Hypothesis built upon it will not take place; and that these Scholars will be allowed to enjoy what in Virtue of the Rights of a free People hath been bequeathed to them, as well as those who are not Scholars, and who enjoy all the rest of the Estates in these Kingdoms under no better Titles than theirs. These are Matters of great Consequence, and, as such, ought to be carefully handled. If new Opinions were to be carried into Execution as soon as they met with a pretty general Reception, it might be of very dangerous Consequence; for, according to the present Disposition of Youth, I am afraid a Parent of Threescore might be thought to have as indifferent a Title to his Estate as a College; and for the same Reason, because, like its Members, he makes no Noise or Bustle in the World, but is contented to live quietly, and mind what he takes to be his Duty.

Yet admitting, for Argument-sake, that a mere Scholar is a mere Drone, which I presume is the chief Argument for driving him out of his Hive, as a Person who can contribute nothing to the public Service; let one of the *Smarts* inform us, Whom he takes to be useful Members of the Common-wealth? Undoubtedly he will admit, that a *Hertfordshire* Farmer and a *Battersea* Gardener are of the Number; because to the One he owes the White-bread at Breakfast, and to the other the lovely Asparagus at Supper: But then let me remind him, that though these Things are now in the Hands of the Farmer and Gardener, when his Father was at the University, they had not reached the Knowledge of either; but these Scholars and their Pupils, these useless Hum-drums, who are now esteemed Pests of Society, were hammering out those Propositions from whence these practical Advantages have been deduced, in the Universities out of which you would turn them. Neither ancient nor modern Improvers of Agriculture and Gardening have been Peasants or Labourers, but Gentlemen and Scholars; such were Sir John Evelyn, Mr. Worlidge, Dr. Plot, Mr. Ray, Mr. Nourse, Mr. Mortimer, Dr. Bradley, and many others. The Communication of learned Observations and Discoveries, and the prosecuting of these in Experiments, was commenced by Dr. Wilkins and his Friends, about, or a little before, the Restoration, and this at the University. The great Lord Bacon, from whom these knowing Men drew their first Lights, and Mr. Cowley, from whom they took their Plan, both received their Education at the University. To their Endeavours, under the Royal Auspice of Charles II. who founded a Society for propagating of useful Knowledge, those mighty Improvements were made, which have raised this Nation to so high and flourishing a Condition as it is now; in that Condition which has provoked our half Thinkers to imagine that Universities are useless, and that Knowledge may be either plowed or dug out of the Earth by Peasants, rather than found by lazy Book-worms maintained by the Public only to read and think.

But there is another Topic of Complaint: Trade is universally allowed to be the grand Support of these Kingdoms; and of what Use, cry our Youngsters, can the Universities be to Trade? This is an Objection of some Weight: Cambridge, and Oxford, are both Inland Places, they know not much of the Exchanges in any of

the Colleges; few of the Fellows know any thing of Barter, tho' there may be here and there one who can work the Rule of Three. But, to be serious, if the Nation depends on Trade, Trade depends on Navigation, and Navigation depends on much on Learning, that what has hitherto been done in it, hath proceeded intirely from Scholars; and what is still wished and expected, can only be expected from them. It is not likely that either a *London* Sculler, or a *West-country* Bargeman, will discover the Longitude; and though it may be true, such as Butchers and Bakers have attained great Skill in the Mathematics, as I could particularize if I thought fit, yet they have attained it by reading the Works of Men who studied at Universities, and who could not have composed those Works if they had not studied there. What I have offered is not deep or scholastick; if it had, those for whose Use I write it, would not have understood it. It is light and easy, fit for the Faith and Conception of a Free Thinker, who, though he may admit that Two and Two make Four, yet would express some Doubt, whether the adding Three would make Five; and if one talked of producing Ten by adding Three more, would cry out Unintelligible Mystery! Priestcraft! and perhaps knock one down as an Enemy to the Freedom and Pleasure of Mankind.

With respect to Theology, History, and Metaphysics, I am content that they shall stand on the same Foot with Music, Dancing, and riding the great Horse; and I hope our Wits will allow the Professors of those out-of-the-way Sciences in the University, to enjoy their Salaries, as long as they pay the Master who teaches them the *Fa-la-bello*, to cut *Capers*, and to manage a Barb. Every Man has his Pleasure, and every Man likes those who think that Pleasure which he thinks so; and therefore, on the very Principles of the *Beau Monde*, Universities ought to be left as they are, while there are People who take Pleasure in the Sciences taught there; and if the present prevailing Spirit of contemning those Sciences should go on, they will be forsaken of course, and the Colleges once empty, I am not against their being turned into dancing or riding Schools, as it shall please the sprightly Generation in whose Days this Alteration shall happen. If, Mr. Freeman, you are so good to publish these whimsical Thoughts of a dreaming *Cantab*, you will furnish the Wits with something to laugh at, and oblige

Your constant Reader and Admirer,

BENJAMIN BOOKLOVE.

Queen's College, Cambridge, May 11. 1737.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ACCORDING to Letters from *Venice*, they have Advice from *Constantinople*, dated the 10th of March, which say, that the Rebellion in Asia increases every Day, that 30,000 Turks who were detach'd to reduce the Rebels to Reason, had been beat with the *Lols* of about 8000, and that the *Bashaw* of *Babylon* was likewise in Rebellion against the *Porte*, on which he design'd to make himself independent. 'Tis even said there's a Connivance between the said *Bashaw* and *Kouli Kan*, so that 'tis a question whether the latter will keep the Peace with the *Grand Seignior*. In short, by all their late Letters from *Constantinople*, the Affairs of the *Porte* are not in a Situation so advantageous as to justify their haughty Conduct. They say, that the Example of the *Bashaw* of *Babylon*, has induced the Inhabitants of *Natolia*



to revolt in like manner against the Grand Seigneur, and that Troops have been sent against them, which were repulsed.

Letters from Vienna mention Advice from Transylvania, that a dangerous Conspiracy had been discovered, which had been formed by several Gentlemen of that Province in favour of Prince Ragotski. The Prince Lobkowitz, who commands there in chief, having some Suspicion of it, caused the Baron de Lazer, the Head of the whole Intrigue, to be arrested, who thereupon discovered several of his Accomplices, of whom no less than 13 Barons and 2 Counts, all Protestant Gentlemen of the Province, were arrested. We are assured that the Design of the Conspirators was to join Prince Ragotski, and to facilitate the Turks Entrance into Transylvania, on the Frontiers of which a great Number of them were actually assembled; but 'tis expected that this fortunate Discovery will entirely disconcert the Projects of that Prince and his Adherents.

The Prince of Saxe-Hilburghausen is arrived at Vienna from his Government of Comorra, to marry the Princess Victoria de Solfons, Niece and Heiress of the late Prince Eugene, who is about 58 Years of Age. This Marriage was for a long while in Treaty, tho' all the time an intire Secret to the Publick; and even to several of the Ministers. Mean time the Princess Victoria has made him a Present of a fine Sword which the late Emperor Leopold gave to Prince Eugene after the Victory at Zenta in Dalmatia. The said Princess has also given the Prince several rich Jewels. And on the 6th Instant the said Prince was married to the Princess at Hoff, 8 Leagues from Vienna, a Seat of the late Prince Eugene, near the Danube, in the Prefence of the Great Duke of Tuscany, and his Brother Prince Charles, the Velt Marshal Count Philipp, General Diemar, and several other Officers and Persons of Distinction. The Bridegroom was born the 29th of September 1702, O. S. and the Bride the 3d of the same Month 1683; tho' some say 'twas in December 1686. His Name is Joseph-Mary-Frederic-William-Hollandius of Saxe Hilburghausen. 'Tis said this Princess has settled all her Estate upon the Prince for his Life, if he survive her, on condition that it shall go to the House of Austria, in case he die without Issue. The said Princess has also given the Emperor her Uncle's fine Library for a Pension of 12000 Crowns.

Among other Particulars relating to the Surrender of *Ustia*, they say, that the Bashaw who commanded at the Siege, having sent Word to Captain Lesner, that if he did not surrender at Discretion, he would hang up both him and his Garrison; the Captain sent him out for Answer, that he was not yet so far reduced as to submit to such Terms, and that he was resolved to perish with all his Garrison, if he could not obtain a good Capitulation; and that upon this courageous Answer, the Bashaw, charmed with the Captain's Bravery, granted him honourable Terms, which however the Captain could not sign because he had received so many Wounds, and therefore he made his Lieutenant set his Hand to the Capitulation in his stead. This brave Officer, who we hear is arrived with his little Garrison at Sabacz, is to be promoted to the Rank of a Colonel.

'Tis said that the Turks, after having had several Repulses from the Prince de Lobkowitz, Commander in chief in Transylvania, had at last penetrated into one of the Territories of the said Province with 40,000 Men, and that another Body of the Turks, consisting of above 30,000, had passed the Save some small Distance from Belgrade, from whence the last Letters say, they made great Ravages in the Flat Country.

The Velt Marshal de Konigsfegg, President of the Council of War, having assisted, by the Emperor's express Order, at a Session of the Committee of Inquiry into the Affair of the Count de Seckendorff, the Talk of his Countess's Return to Saxony is now quite over, as well as the Design of removing him to another Lodging, for which Reason 'tis believed that his Affair will soon be determined.

The Emperor being informed that some foreign Merchants had bespoke 300,000 Sabres to be made at Suhl in Thuringia, for the Use of the Turks, his Majesty has sent Orders for seizing and confiscating them.

The King of Prussia's 4th Daughter, viz. the Princess Sophia Dorothea Maria, Wife to the Margrave of Brandenburg Schwedt, was delivered there last Tuesday se'nnight of a Princess.

The Advices from Leghorn say, they have received Letters from *Bastia*, with an Account that the Deputies of the Malecontents have declared to the French General there, that the Corsicans will never submit to the Republick, unless his Master will leave Troops enough always in the Island to protect them against the Impositions of the Genoese, &c.

They write from *Turin*, that the King of Sardinia scruples to accede to the Treaty between the Emperor and the King of France, before the King of Spain has acceded to it in Form.

Letters of the 27th ult. O. S. from Madrid say, a Courier arrived there upon Lady-day from Sir Thomas Fitz Gerald, the King of Spain's Minister at London, with a Copy of the Merchants Petitions to the Parliament, complaining of the Depredations by the Spanish Guarda Costas; and that next Day Mr. Keene, our Plenipotentiary, received another Express from London, who travelled it in less than 10 Days, and brought another Copy of the said Petitions, and Advice of the vigorous Resolutions taken thereupon by the Parliament. The Dispatches brought by this Express were so many, that it took up Mr. Keene the greatest Part of the next Night to examine and take an Account of them for the Information of the Court. Accordingly Mr. Keene, who had not been at Court for a good while, went the very next Day, viz. the 27th ult. O. S. to Buen Retiro, where he had a long Conference with the Marquis de la Quadra, Secretary of State. 'Tis added, that the Count del Berro, who is to command the Squadron that is fitting out at Cadiz, will not leave Madrid till 'tis positively certain what Resolution the Court is disposed to take upon the fresh Remonstrances of the Ministry of England.

L O N D O N.

Whitehall, April 25. His Majesty has been pleased to direct Letters Patent to pass the Great Seal of Great Britain, containing a Grant of the Office of Richmond Herald of Arms to James Lane, Esq; void by the Surrender of Charles Whingates, Esq;

On Saturday last Orders were issued out from the Lord Chamberlain's Office to all the Peers, Peeresses and Privy Counsellors, that the Mourning will be changed for her late Majesty on the 21st of May next, viz. The Ladies to wear Black Silk, fringed or plain Linen or Muslin, white Gloves, black and white Shoes, Fans and Tippets, white Necklaces and Earrings; no Diamonds. Undress, white or grey Luffings, Damasks or Tabbies.

The Men to wear Black full Trimmed; plain or fringed Linen, black Swords and Buckles. Undress, Grey Frocks.

Thursday last Week was held a Court of Common Council at the Guildhall of this City; when they took into Consideration the Report of the Committee for building a Mansion House, after Mr. Dance's Plan; and the Court were pleased to direct the said Committee, to give publick Notice, That in 14 Days (from such Notice) they would receive Proposals from the several Artificers to be employ'd therein, who must now be Freeman of the City of London; or such who by Servitude or Patrimony, will be made so, within that Time.

They also took into Consideration, the clearing the Streets of loose and disorderly Persons in the Night-time, and for preventing any exorbitant Fees being demanded of such Persons, who shall be committed to either of the Compters; which Motion, together with the Petition of the Keepers of the said Compters relating to their Fees, and the taking in some Houses, as

an Enlargement to one of them, were referred back to the Committee of the City Lands: The Committee of the City Lands were at a direction to agree with the College of Physicians, about the making a Way through Part of the Garden, from Newgate to the Sessions-House in the Old-Bailly; in order to bring down the Prisoners to be tried there, free from the Crowd and Disturbances so common on that Occasion: the said Way to be made about 6 Foot wide, and about 14 Foot high, and to be covered over.

On Friday last Week a Man well dressed was apprehended on his offering a Jew a Bank Note of 500l. for 250l. which bore Date the 2d of Jun: last, it was lost out of a Pocket-Book, with other Notes, to the Amount of 827l. and upwards, the 23d of the same Month. He was examined before Alderman Weltey, and by him committed to Newgate.

The same Day as the Bermingham Waggon came through St. Albans Turnpike, a Man well dressed desired the Waggoner to let him get into his Waggon, in order to come to London, and he would pay him his Demand, and accordingly agreed for a Shilling; but when the Waggon came to the Inn where it put up, the Man was found dead; he had some Money in his Pocket, but we do not hear who he is.

On Saturday last the Harrow Stage Coach was stopped by two Highwaymen poorly mounted, at the Entrance on Sudbury Green, and robbed; they took from a Gentleman his Gold Watch and Money, and from a Lady a fine Diamond Ring and some Money, amounting in the whole to near 50l. and turned about and rode towards London. They had waited a considerable time at a House in the Road, and enquired what time the Coach would come by, saying they wanted to speak with one of the Passengers.

At the Sessions holden at Hicks-Hall, a Petition of a great Number of Servants of Barbers and Peruke-Makers, residing within the County of Middlesex, was presented to the Bench, complaining that they were compelled to shave, and dress Wigs, great part of the Lord's Day, and during the time of Divine Service: The Court, after reading the said Petition, declared they would receive all Informations of this kind, relating to the breaking of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, and would put the Laws in Execution relating thereto; and recommended it to the High Constables, that they be diligent in their respective Divisions, and do from time to time inform the Magistrates of the Names and Places of those who are guilty of this Practice, and who do oblige their Apprentices and Servants to exercise their Trades and Callings on the Lord's Day, and more particularly during the time of Divine Service; which Informations may be laid before his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex at their general Meetings, which at present are in each Division three Days in the Week.

Sunday being St. George's Day, Tutelar Saint of England, the same was observed at Court as a high Festival, when the Knights Companions of the most Noble Order of the Garter, Thistle and Bath, appeared in the Collars of their respective Orders. At Noon his Majesty, the Duke and Princesses, went to the Chapel Royal, preceded by the Heralds and Pursuivants at Arms, attended by a great Concourse of the Nobility and Gentry, and heard a Sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Waterland.

Tuesday Morning, between Four and Five o'Clock, a Duel was fought behind the Ice-House in the Green-Park, St. James's, between Charles Powel, of Shrewsbury, Esq; a Gentleman of a plentiful Fortune, and Capt. Henry Newton, of the second Regiment of Foot Guards, wherein the former was wounded in the Left-Breast, the Right-Breast and Shoulder, the first of which is judged to be mortal; the Captain was slightly wounded in the Groin and the Right Hand. They met without Seconds, so that Mr. Powel walked to the End of the Mall, and desired the Centinel to lead him to St. James's, where he got a Chair, and was carried

ried to his Lodgings in King-street, St. James's: The Captain went through the Gate towards Hyde-Park; but soon after paid a Visit to his Antagonist.

On Friday last an unfortunate Accident happened at Woolwich; as the Masters of the Foundry were proving about 70 large Pieces of large and small Ordnance, when they were discharged, there were three of them did not go off; on which an old Officer belonging to the Train, who had been in several Actions abroad, went to view one of the Pieces (which was a 24 Pounder) to discover the Reason of the Defect; and just as he looked at it, a Spark of Fire, which had lodged near the Touch-hole, set the Powder on fire, and blew him up, scorching his Face in a terrible manner. He was immediately taken up, and Col. Armstrong, who was present, ordered all possible Care to be taken of him; but 'tis thought, should he survive, he will lose his Eye-sight.

Last Monday Mr. Cranebrugh, Page of Honour to her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia, taking the Air in a Chaise at Hammer-smith, the Horse took Fright and ran away with the Chaise, which overturned with him, whereby he had his Right Leg broke in several Places, which was that Night cut off by Mr. Ranby, Surgeon to his Majesty's Household.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor has nominated Humphry South, Esq; Citizen and Fishmonger, for one of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex.

Yesterday at Noon several Lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons, with their Masters, Wardens, &c. waited on the Rt. Hon. the Marquis of Carnarvon, Grand Master Elect, at his House in little Grosvenor's-street, and then proceeded in the grand Procession in Coaches and Chariots, being all clothed and unarmed, to Fishmongers Hall to Dinner, where a very grand Entertainment was prepared for them.

Tuesday a poor Fellow belonging to a Duff Cart unhappily sleeping in Queen-street, Cheap-side, with his Legs extended from the Foot-path beyond the Post into the Horse-way, had both his Legs terribly crushed by a Dray passing by, and was immediately carried to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he remains in great Misery, and in much Danger of his Life.

Last Week died at Kingston, near Corfe-Castle in the Isle of Purbeck, one Mrs. Edmonds, who would have been 106 Years of Age had she lived till next May-Day. She left behind her four Children, the youngest of whom is upwards of 70, and above sixty Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. She could read without Spectacles about two Years before she died.

They write from Arundel in Sussex, that the Small Pox rages there so violently, that there is scarce a House free from the Infection, and Families are going daily out of Town with Waggons loaded with Goods; no Market is kept, the Country People being timorous of approaching the Place.

A great Number of People having on the 14th Instant in the Evening, assembled themselves in the City of Bristol, in a riotous and tumultuous Manner, the Magistrates of the said City caused the Proclamation for preventing Tumults to be read, whereupon they dispersed at that Time, but assembled again the next Morning in the same riotous Manner: And an anonymous Letter being on the 18th Instant taken up in the Court of the Dwelling House of Nathaniel Day, Esq; Mayor of that City, threatening him with Mischief, in case he should molest any Person on Account of the said Riots: His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in the several Crimes above-mentioned, or either of them, has been pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any of the said Offenders that shall discover his or their Accomplice or Accomplices in the said Riots, or in writing, sending, or dropping the Threatening Letter aforesaid, so that they or any of them be apprehended and convicted thereof.

The Corporation have offered a Reward of Ten Pounds to any Person who shall discover

any of the Rioters, and 50l. to the Person who shall discover any one concerned in writing or throwing the said Letter into the Court aforesaid, the Mayor likewise has promised 50l. more to the Person making such Discovery; which Rewards are to be paid on the Conviction of the Offender.

The said Letter was without Date or Name, directed to the Right Worshipful Nath. Day, Esq; Mayor, and addressed in the Words following, viz. 'May it please your bust: Worship, to be so kind not to trouble yourself about what you call a Riot on the Wear as much as you do; if your Worship doth molest any Person, we that did break the Windows of that wicked Creature's House, will certainly do you the same Kindness and something worse the first Opportunity, we doth not question will be in a little Time: We think it Justice to serve her so, and your Worship worie, if you doth not hold your Peace.

'And, I pray, accuse none wrongfully; if you doth, it shall be—Fire to you.'

An Incendiary Letter, dated at Laugharne, the 7th of March last past, having been sent by the Post, directed to John Philipps of Kilgetty, Esq; Carmarthen, threatening, That in Case he stood Candidate for Common Council-man of Carmarthen, he should not enjoy it a Year in Peace, and warning him to take Care lest his Brains be knock'd out, his Blood licked by Dogs, his House set on Fire, and his Friends murdered: His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Author or Authors thereof, has been pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them who shall discover his Accomplice or Accomplices, so as they or any of them may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

And as a further Encouragement, the said John Philipps hath promised a Reward of Fifty Pounds; the Mayor and Common-Council of the County Borough of Carmarthen a Reward of Thirty Pounds, and the Rev. M. Anthony Rudd, of Carmarthen, a Reward of Twenty Pounds; to be severally paid to the Person or Persons making such Discovery as aforesaid, upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.

They write from Plymouth, that Capt. Kerley, of the Expedition, who is arrived there from the Cape de Verds, met the 11th Instant, 200 Leagues to the Westward of the Land, just foundering, the Vine, of Bristol, Capt. Hall; but had the good Fortune to save him and his Crew, being seventeen in Number, whom he carried into Plymouth. The Vine had above 200 Tons of Logwood on board.

By Letters from Chester we have a melancholy Account of a sad Fire that broke out last Week at the Seat of Mr. Shackerly, at Worfall in Denbighshire, about seven Miles from thence: It was discovered about Five in the Morning by a Man going to Work, otherwise they had all been burnt in their Beds; he made a great Noise and knocking at the Door for some Time before any Body awaked, when two Gentlemen that lay there that Night heard him and came down and opened the Doors, and alarm'd the Family; but the Fire burnt so furiously, that Mr. Shackerly and his Lady were forced to get out of a Window one Story high; his two Daughters (the rest being abroad) got to the Top of the House, and were taken from thence; the Servants were forced to jump out of their Windows, and from the Top of the House; a Man Servant is so hurt its thought he can't live; another is missing; and the Cook being very fat and large, got on the Top of the House; but before they could get her down, the Roof fell in with her, and she was burnt. It is not known how the Fire began; the Servants were up till One that Morning; all the Gentleman's Writings, Furniture and every thing in the House were burnt. The House was new-built, not having been finished quite twelve Months, and the Furniture entirely new; so that the Loss sustained on this Occasion is computed at near 1000l.

Derby, April 20. Samuel Smith, commonly called Dr. Smith, who some Time ago had like to have been dismember'd by one Sarah Soar

his Sweetheart, when he was in Liquor and asleep, (as mentioned formerly) being perfectly cured, was publicly married at St. Alkmund's Church to the said Sarah Soar, on Tuesday last.

Norwich, April 22. Last Monday the Stage Coach going from hence for London, was near Attleburgh robbed by one Highwayman, who took from the Passengers a considerable Sum of Money, and rode off. He damned the Coachman, and bid him not look at him. Benjamin Nuthall, Esq; of this City, is appointed Receiver-General of the Land-Tax for one Part of the County, in the room of Simon Taylor, deceased. So that the whole Land-Tax for the County of Norfolk will be received by Timothy Balderston, and Benjamin Nuthall, Esq; both of the City of Norwich.

Newmarket, April 24. The Horses that started for the Thousand Pound Contribution came in as follow, viz. the Earl of Godolphin's first, the Earl of Halifax's second, the Duke of Somerset's third, the Lord Londale's fourth, Sir Michael Newton's fifth, the Duke of Bridgewater's sixth, the Earl of Portmore's seventh, the Duke of Belton's eighth, the Duke of Devonshire's ninth, and the Lord Weymouth's tenth. The Earl of Portmore's Horse was taken against the Field.

The five-year old Mares entered to run for his Majesty's Plate of 100 Guineas Tomorrow, are as follow, viz. the Duke of Somerset's, Sir Michael Newton's, Lord Weymouth's, Mr. Metcalf's, Mr. Obaldiston's, Mr. Bruster's, Mr. Hutton's, Sir Humphry Howarth's, Mr. Tunstall's, and the Lord Willoughby de Brook's.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, April 20. Yesterday Mr. Robert Stuart, Professor of Natural Philosophy, presented to the Presbytery (Mr. Matthieson, Moderator) the University of Edinburgh's Commission to the Rev Dr William Wisheart, as their Representative to the next Assembly, in order to have the same attested. And it was urged, that such Attestation was no more than a Matter of Form, the Commission being valid without it; and that such Commissions had been sustained before the very Existence of Presbyteries, &c. It was answered, That as a Process now actually depended against the Doctor for Heterodox Principles, the same behoved to be previously discussed. However, the Attestation being insisted on, the Question was put, *Attest, or Not?* And it carried in the Negative by a Majority of 4, Elders included. The Votes of the Ministers were,

Attest,	Not Attest,
Mr Thoburn,	Mr. Schaw,
Wood,	Stevenson,
Ballantyne,	Lindsay,
Fordyce,	Kinloch,
Spark,	Gustard,
Guthrie,	Webster,
Maccomb,	Logan,
Wallace,	Hepburn,
Wisheart,	Pitcairn.
Gl:n.	

Mr. Glasgow, Chaplain of the Castle, *Non liquet*; Mess. Semple, Macvicar, Nisbet, Robertson, Gibson, Robert and Gilbert Hamiltons, absent; Mess. Gowdie and Cumming, being Members of the University, were Parties.

Several very smart Expressions and Repartees passed on this Occasion.

From Perth, That last Week two Rooms of the Mansion House of Mr. Oliphant of Gask were demolished by Lightning; but no Person was hurt. That the Provincial Synod met at Creiff, had under Consideration the Conduct of the Associate Presbytery in their Bounds; when a Representation was drawn up against them, which occasioned warm Debates; some insisting, that they could be no longer tolerated, and none appeared more keen against them than the Rev. Mess. Gillespie and Gib. The Associate Presbytery had Meetings the Wednesday and Thursday before, at Abernethy; when two young Men appeared upon their Trials, in order to be licensed: But one of them seeming even to transcend the Brethren,

as if he entertained Scruples of praying for his Majesty, his Promotion was put off till his Doubts are relieved.

I R E L A N D.

A Yearly Bill of Mortality for the City and Suburbs of Dublin, ending the 31st of March 1738.

Males Baptized 672 Females 737. In all 1409. Males Buried 1023 Females 1483. In all 2506. Increased in Christenings this Year 53.

Increased in Burials this Year 289.

Dublin, April 18. On Wednesday the 12th Instant, Captain Mercer, Commander of the Thompson Galley, received Information at King's Head of a Sloop lying off Barry's Point, about four Leagues West of Kinsale, laden with Brandy from France, and was running her Cargo; upon which Captain Mercer got the King's Boat at Kinsale, and sent nine of his Men in her: When the Sloop perceived the King's Boat, she cut her Cable, and fired three Swivel Guns and some small Arms into the Boat; sixteen Balls went thro' her Sails, and a seventeenth wounded one of Captain Mercer's Men in the Breast; the King's Officers returned the Fire, and a smart Engagement ensued, which lasted upwards of half an Hour, when the Officers boarded the Sloop, secured thirteen of the Smugglers, and brought them to Kinsale. Her Cargo consisted of 161 Anchors and nine Hog-heads of Brandy, which are all safe in Kinsale Storehouses, and the Smugglers in Gaol. In the Engagement one of the Smugglers was shot thro' the Lungs, and lies in a dangerous Condition; and several others were wounded.

A Report from the Lords Committees for Religion, appointed to examine into the Causes of the present notorious Immorality and Profaneness: Made by the Earl of Granard, on Friday the 15th of March, 1737.

My LORDS,

THE Lords Committees for Religion, appointed to examine into the Causes of the present notorious Immorality and Profaneness, beg Leave before they report to your Lordships, what Progress they have made in that Enquiry, to observe, that an uncommon Scene of Impiety and Blasphemy appeared before them, wherein several Persons must have been concerned: But by reason of their meeting late in the Session, they have not been able to prepare a full and satisfactory Account thereof for your Lordships; however, they think it their Duty to lay it before your Lordships as it hath appeared to them: That before the Conclusion of the Session, some Measures may be taken to put a Stop to the Spreading of these Impieties, which it is to be hoped in the next Session of Parliament, your Lordships will be able, by proper Laws and Remedies, wholly to extinguish and prevent for the future.

The Lords Committees have sufficient Grounds to believe, (though no direct Proof thereof upon Oath hath yet been laid before them) that several loose and disorderly Persons have of late erected themselves into a Society or Club, under the Name of *Blasfers*; and have used Means to draw into this impious Society several of the Youth of this Kingdom.

What the Practices of this Society are, (besides the general Fame spread through the whole Kingdom) appears by the Examinations of several Persons taken upon Oath, before the Lord Mayor of this City, in Relation to *Peter Lens* Painter, lately come into this Kingdom, who professes himself a *Blasfer*.

By these Examinations it appears, that the said *Peter Lens*, professes himself to be a Votary of the Devil, that he hath offered up Prayers to him, and publicly drank to the Devil's Health; that he hath at several Times uttered the most daring and execrable Blasphemies against the Sacred Name and Majesty of God; and often made Use of such obscene, blasphemous, and

before unheard-of Expressions, as the Lords Committees think they cannot even mention to your Lordships, and therefore chuse to pass over in Silence.

As Impieties and Blasphemies of this Kind were utterly unknown to our Ancestors, the Lords Committees observe, that the Laws framed by them must be unequal to such enormous Crimes; and, that a new Law is wanting more effectually to restrain and punish Blasphemies of this Kind.

The Lords Committees cannot take upon them to assign the immediate Causes of such monstrous Impieties, but they beg Leave to observe, that of late Years there hath appeared a greater Neglect of Religion, and all Things Sacred, than was ever before known in this Kingdom, a great Neglect of Divine Worship, both publick and private, and of the due Observance of the Lord's Day; a Want of Reverence to the Laws and Magistrate, and of a due Subordination in the several Ranks and Degrees in the Community; and an Abuse of Liberty, under our mild and happy Constitution; a great Neglect in Education; and a Want of Care in Parents and Masters of Families, in training up their Children in Reverence and Awe; and keeping their Servants in Discipline and good Order, and instructing them in moral and religious Duties; a great Encrease of Idleness, Luxury, and excessive Gaming, and an Excess in the Use of spirituous and intoxicating Liquors.

Wherefore the Lords Committees are come to the following Resolutions, viz.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that his Majesty's Attorney General, be ordered to prosecute *Peter Lens*, with the utmost Severity of the Law.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that an humble Address be presented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, that he would be pleased to order, that a Proclamation may issue, with a Reward for apprehending the said *Peter Lens*, and that he would be further pleased, to give in Direction to the Judges in their several Circuits, to charge the Magistrates to put the Laws in Execution against Immorality, and Profane Curling and Swearing, and Gaming, and to enquire into Atheistical and Blasphemous Clubs.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Bishops be desired at their Visitations, to give it in particular Charge to their Clergy, to exhort their People to a more frequent and constant Attendance on Divine Service.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Visitors of the University, and of all Schools, do exhort and require the Fellows and Masters, carefully to instruct the Youth, committed to their Care, in the Principles of Religion, and Morality, and to inculcate a due Reverence to the Laws and Religion of their Country.

To which Report and Resolutions, the Question being severally put; the House did Agree.

En. Stern, Cler. Parliamentor.

The Irish Parliament, which stood prorogued to Tuesday the 25th of April, is further prorogued to Tuesday the 21st of December next.

P R E F E R M E N T C I V I L.

John Harris, Esq; Member for Helston, Cornwall, is made Pay-master of the Board of Works, in the Room of the late Hugh Howard, Esq;

P R E F E R M E N T S M I L I T A R Y.

Capt. William Bell is appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Col. Cornwallis's Regiment of Foot, in the room of Col. Paterson, deceased. Captain Hodges of the second Regiment of Foot Guards is appointed Colonel of a Com-

pany in the said Regiment, in the room of Colonel Eytton, deceased.

Major Whitney is appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment of Dragoons commanded by Brigadier General Hawley.

M A R R I A G E S.

Sir John Lequesne, Knt and Alderman of Broad-street Ward, to Miss Knight of Hampshire.

William Barton, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Excise, to Miss Elizabeth Pitt.

D E A T H S.

April 19. At his Seat in Worcestershire, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

April 21. At his House at Warrifworth, Mr. Samuel Palmer, a very eminent Surgeon.

April 23. At his House in Lancaster-Court, in the Strand, Capt. Young, an old experienced Officer.

April 25. At his Lodgings at Chelsea, William Blackton, of Suffex, Esq; formerly Page of Honour to King William the Third.

B A N K R U P T S.

Frederick Voguell, of London, Merchant.

Joseph Horne, late of Hastings, in the County of Suffex, Linnen-draper and Chapman.

William Herne, late of the Parish of St. Andrew's Holbourn, in the County of Middlesex, Broker and Chapman.

Anthony Bayles, late of Rotherhith in the County of Surry, Pettrivig-maker and Chapman.

John Willis, of Deptford, in the County of Kent, Distiller.

P R I C E S of S T O C K S Friday Noon.

Bank Stock, 127 3 4ths. India 171. South Sea 98 3 4ths. Old Annuity 109 1 8th, without the Dividend. New Ditto, 109 1 4th, to 3 8ths. Three per Cent. Annuity 103 3 4ths. Emperor's Loan 7 per Cent. 109. Ditto 5 per Cent. 98. Royal Assurance 109. London Assurance 15. African 14. India Bonds 71. Premium. South Sea Bonds 21. 16s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 21. 7s. 6d. Prem.

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